

Congressman Childers' Statement on Senate Disaster Relief Legislation

November 20, 2009

Washington, DC – Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) released the following statement in response to Sen. Cochran's introduction of disaster relief legislation. Over the past several months, the Congressman has been working to address the assistance needs of Mississippi producers experiencing significant crop loss due to excessive rainfall.

"As the only member of the House Agriculture Committee in Mississippi's delegation, I worked tirelessly to see that hard-hit counties in Mississippi were designated disaster areas and were able to receive much-needed disaster relief assistance. In October, I sent letters urging Secretary Vilsack and Gov. Barbour to act quickly in gathering the necessary information to make these designations. Earlier this week, nearly all of Mississippi's counties received this designation.

"However, the significant assistance provided by the USDA's available disaster relief program is still not enough to make up for the incredible crop losses so many local farmers have experienced. While we await the full implementation of Farm Bill assistance provisions, we need to make sure that producers have the resources they need right now.

"I applaud Sen. Cochran for introducing important legislation to provide additional timely assistance to producers in disaster areas. While the House is not currently in session, I plan on introducing similar legislation as soon as we reconvene the first week in December. I will continue working hard to ensure that our local producers receive the assistance they need during this difficult time."

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First

Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov

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